

**COMMITTEE:** CENTRAL AREA                      REF NO: CAC/22/15

**DATE:** 1 MARCH 2023

**SUBJECT:** FUNDING REQUEST - EASTERN ANGLES  
THEATRE COMPANY

**REPORT AUTHOR:** BETH ROBINSON

**DIRECTOR:** IAN BLOFIELD

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating £2,160 to Eastern Angles Theatre Company (Eastern Angles) to support a project officer in managing The Work Furnace Project. The Work Furnace is a heritage project celebrating the lives of those who worked in the industries of Ipswich and will comprise of a street procession and an audio heritage trail and exhibition, in partnership with community groups and local participants.

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

- a) Appendix 1 – Application Form

*This report has been prepared by Beth Robinson* ,

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***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*Internal consultees*

*External consultees*

*Hannah Houghton*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***

*(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)*

*Building a Better Ipswich 2017*

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**1. Item of business and issues for consideration**

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- 1.1 To consider the application of Eastern Angles and decide whether to agree:
- i) Option 1 - Fund the total amount requested
  - ii) Option 2 - Fund a lesser amount to the amount requested
  - iii) Option 3 - Not fund
- 1.2 The Committee will make its decision based on whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.
- 1.3 Eastern Angles comprises of several different groups and projects, with an overall mission of using theatre and creative projects to focus on heritage, identity and a 'sense of place'. Current projects include performances, clubs, and facilities for artists and companies to research, design and showcase work.
- 1.4 The heart of the work at Eastern Angles is to build and celebrate communities and individual reflections and aspirations. Examples of these themes in practice include uncovering stories from migrant communities, highlighting working class history and demystifying medieval theatre.
- 1.5 The project will explore post-war employment of residents in central Ipswich in many trades such as baking, manufacturing, agricultural machines, and iron works, and will give a voice to those who otherwise would not have one.
- 1.6 The project will aim to 'open people's eyes' to this overlooked modern history by creating a heritage audio trail which will take walkers on an exploration of Ipswich's former factory sites, which will also include personal memoirs. An exhibition and booklet will be produced in conjunction with this theme, and there will be a town centre procession of volunteers, with vibrancies such as colourful costumes, co-created giant puppets, banners and more. Creative workshops in local schools and care homes will also run concurrently with the same themes.
- 1.7 The project will be free, and target residents of central Ipswich, both in the collaborative work and the street parade.
- 1.8 The collective projects will run until the end of June, and the money requested will be used to increase the project officer hours from 0.4 to 0.6 to manage and co-ordinate the different streams of the project. As such, this application is time sensitive.
- 1.9 The project will provide opportunities for working class communities to see their societal contributions recognised. As a collaborative project, young people will develop new skills such as oral presentation and curation, and care home residents will benefit from creative workshops which will improve

their wellbeing and combat isolation. There will be many more indirect central Ipswich beneficiaries as the parade will take place in central Ipswich.

- 1.10 The project has generated interest with a significant increase in social media engagement and in attendance at ‘reminiscence groups’ and will be supported and encouraged by more than seven local partners, from Ipswich Museum to private companies, to BBC Look East.

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## 2. Links to Area Action Plan

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- 2.1 Department of Communities and Local Government - Domains of Deprivation:

- **Education, Skills, and Training**, which is an Area Action Plan priority

- 2.2 Building a Better Ipswich underlying principles:

- **A Healthy Community**, which is an Area Action Plan priority
- **A Safe Community**, which is an Area Action Plan priority
- **An Enjoyable Place to Live, Work and Study**

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## 3. Financial implications

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- 3.1 There is £3,845.26 remaining unallocated in the Central Area Committee’s budget, which is available to fund grant applications.

Description of expenditure		Cost (£)
18 days of Project Officer at £120/day		2,160.00
Work Furnace project		25,000.00
Total project costs		27,160.00
Total requested from Area Committees	North East	N/A
	North West	N/A
	<b>Central</b>	<b>£2,160.00</b>
	South East	N/A
	South West	N/A
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,160.00</b>

- 3.2 Total project costs except for the Project Officer are being funded by Historic England (£20,000) and in kind from Eastern Angles staff (£5,000).

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#### **4. Legal Implications**

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- 4.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 4.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e., the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 4.3 Eastern Angles (registered Charity no. 295093, registered company number 1810563) has provided its constitution, named officers, proof of bank account, year-end accounts, and safeguarding policy, as required by the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.

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#### **5. Risks considered**

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5.1 The key risks are summarised in the below table:

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Consequence of risk</b>	<b>Risk Controls</b>	<b>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)</b>	<b>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)</b>
Safeguarding risk to children and vulnerable people	Emotional or physical harm to individual	Safeguarding system  Records check on staff and volunteers	2	3
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	Eastern Angles operates a safeguarding policy for vulnerable adults and for children. Their staff are trained, and DBS checked.			
Public and participant disinterest	Poor use of public funding	Utilising pre-existing partnerships with organisations and individuals	1	3
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	Many pre-existing partnerships exist and will be utilised for engagement, and training will be given to ensure a feeling of commitment and collective enterprise for young people.			

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**6. Options**

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- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £2,160 to Eastern Angles.
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £2,160 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

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**7. Record of Decision taken**

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**8. Exemption from call in (if applicable)**

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I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

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Signed.....

[This must be signed by the Chair of the Area Committee]